

Submission
No 144

INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS AND PRISON-RELATED SERVICES

Organisation:

Name: Name suppressed

Telephone:

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Partially Confidential

SUPPORTING THE NON PRIVATISATION OF CESSNOCK CORRECTIVE CENTRE

I am a Drug & Alcohol Counsellor at Cessnock Correction Centre; I have worked in this location for the past 8 years. My association with the Custodial Officers has only ever been positive; I have found them generally to be of excellent character. I have been treated fairly and given assistance in organising and facilitating groups run for the inmates. These groups are to address the inmates offending behaviour they are all accredited proven programs, I have been given positive feedback from officers commenting on the change in offenders behaviours after completion of these programs. I believe Cessnock Corrective Centre presents the most accredited proven programs in the state, there are statistics to prove this. Programs presented at this centre in the AOD field cover Anger Management, CALM, Getting SMART, AA, Alcohol Awareness and Relapse Prevention. These programs do help change the direction of their lives. These positive programs will be LOST WITH THE PRIVATISATION OF CESSNOCK CORRECTIVE CENTRE; this can only be a disadvantage not only to our immediate community but state wide.

The noticeable effect this privatisation is having on the OS&P staff, the custodial staff and the current inmates is very visible. Staff with families, I believe our families endure enough pressure in our daily lives and in this day and age of disruption this is one disruption that doesn't need to happen, we are in the business of saving lives not one of destructing them. Rehabilitation does work, with the dedication of staff from Cessnock Correction Centre this has been occurring.

I enjoy my work with the Department of Corrective Services and wish to continue working in this field of rehabilitation at Cessnock Corrective Centre under the Department of Corrective Services, this is a positive centre, lets hope the good work can continue and there is NO PRIVATISATION OF CESSNOCK CORRECTIVE CENTRE